

Vertac Incorporated Superfund Site; Jacksonville, Arkansas

Issue: EPA is preparing to complete the next five year review of the site, which will find the remedy to be protective; however, the lowering of the dioxin standard and analytical detection limit will identify that risk in some areas is unknown

Background:

The Site is a former chemical manufacturing facility in Jacksonville, Arkansas which produced insecticides and herbicides. Decades of improper disposal led to widespread dioxin soil and groundwater contamination. The Site was placed on the National Priorities List in 1983.

The site's cleanup included several stages, beginning with a court-ordered remedy in 1984. Ultimately, the cleanup included incineration of 10,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated waste, demolition of buildings and equipment, and excavation and on-site disposal of about 20,000 cubic yards of dioxin-contaminated soils in two on-site landfills. The site cleanup activities were completed in 1998 and are currently under long-term operation and maintenance by the responsible party.

Key Points:

- The EPA is currently finalizing the Fifth Five Year Review. The review will likely defer the long-term protectiveness for the on-site and residential soils
- There are no immediate public health concerns, however additional information may be necessary to ensure long term protectiveness due to the lowering of the dioxin level
- The Mayor of Jacksonville has expressed concerns that additional work on residential properties will have a negative impact on the city
- EPA and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality will continue working with the responsible parties on potential follow-up actions and keep the city informed as work proceeds

Talking Points:

- EPA is preparing to complete the next five year review of the site, which will find the remedy to be protective; however, the lowering of the dioxin standard and analytical detection limit will identify that risk in some areas is unknown
- EPA is working closely with the state of Arkansas and the city of Jacksonville to determine appropriate next steps